

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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R 051235Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7809

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BU, YU

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR IN BELGRADE RECALLED TO BE VICE  
MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. RABOTNICHESKO DELO APRIL 3 ANNOUNCED DECISION OF  
STATE COUNCIL TO RECALL NICOLAI MINCHEV AS AMBASSADOR  
TO YUGOSLAVIA. ACCORDING TO ANNOUNCEMENT MINCHEV WILL  
BECOME A VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO ONE NON-SOCIALIST SOURCE  
MINCHEV HAD NOT BEEN LOOKED UPON WITH MUCH FAVOR BY  
YUGOSLAVS WHO HAD BEEN PRESSING FOR HIS EXIT FROM  
BELGRADE. WHILE THEY MAY BE GRATIFIED BY HIS RECALL,  
THEY WILL NOT BE HAPPY AT HIS ELEVATION TO VICE MINISTER  
WHO, ACCORDING TO RUMOR, WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIRD  
DEPARTMENT (BALKAN AFFAIRS).

3. FROM OUR LIMITED VANTAGE POINT HERE YUGOSLAV-  
BULGARIAN RELATIONS ARE AT NEW LOW POINT. YUGOSLAVS  
HERE MADE IT CLEAR THAT LONG-RUMORED TITO-ZHIVKOV  
MEETING WAS IN WORKS IN LATE MARCH OR EARLY APRIL.  
FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV IS REPORTED TO HAVE REMARKED  
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THAT "THEY (YUGOSLAVS) CAN PLAN AS MUCH AS THEY WANT,

BUT WE ARE THE ONES WHO DECIDE". IN ANY EVENT VISIT, IF EVER REALLY SCHEDULED, NOW DEFINITELY CANCELLED. YUGOSLAV EMBASSY IN RECENT DAYS HAS MAILED OUT EXTREMELY PROVOCATIVE MATERIALS ON MACEDONIA QUESTION TO ALL FOREIGN EMBASSIES. BOOKS, WHICH BY AND LARGE REHASH OLD ARGUMENTS OVER MACEDONIA, INCLUDE POLEMICAL TONES PUBLISHED BY KULTURA, SKOPJE WHICH RUN THE GAMIT FROM CLAIM OF MACEDONIAN (AS OPPOSED TO BULGARIAN) HERITAGE OF CLEMENT OF OCHRID THROUGH REPRINTING OF FAMOUS BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE PAMPHLET FROM 1968 ON "THE MACEDONIA QUESTION". ONE YUGOSLAV DIPLOMAT REMARKED THAT MAILING CAMPAIGN WAS DESIGNED TO "SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON WHAT BULGARIAN POSITION REALLY IS".

4. THIS LATEST ARGUMENT HAS ITS ROOTS IN LILOV SPEECH TO BCP PLENUM ON IDEOLOGY IN WHICH HE ENUMERATED MINORITIES IN BULGARIA WITHOUT, HOWEVER, MENTIONING MACEDONIANS. LILOV INCIDENT, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO BE ONLY A CONVENIENT EXCUSE TO RESUME POLEMICS WHICH HAVE FAR DEEPER ROOTS. YUGOSLAV SENSITIVITIES MAY BE JUDGED FROM COMMENT OF YUGOSLAV DIPLOMAT WHO, IN SPEAKING OF PRESENT ITALIAN-YUGOSLAV DISPUTE, SAID, "WE HAVE THE DISTINCT FEELING THAT WE ARE BEING ATTACKED ON TWO FLANKS". FROM HERE IT APPEARS TO US THAT THE GOB IS PLAYING PASSIVE ROLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR POLICY THAT NO "MACEDONIAN QUESTION" EXISTS AND THAT YUGOSLAVS ARE TAKING ACTIVIST ROLE IN LATEST EXCHANGE.  
HERZ

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